GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:328
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of employment as well as employment opportunities in the agricultural sector have dwindled over a period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to create additional employment opportunities in the agricultural sector;

(d) whether the Government has assigned the responsibility for technology upgradation in the labour-oriented agricultural sector to any research institute; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such upgraded technology is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 328 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2008.

(a) & (b): As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census, registering an increase of 11.11% in ten years. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment, employment on Usual Status basis in agriculture sector was estimated at 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05 (61st round), showing an increase of 7.86% in five years. As such dependence on agriculture has increased.

(c): Schemes in the agricultural sector aim at increasing production and productivity and in the process create additional employment in agriculture. Several development programmes such as Macro Management of Agriculture covering Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cerals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented.

Recently, Government has launched two schemes viz.
(i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses and

(ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to incentivise the States/UTs to invest more in the agriculture sector, district wise. These Schemes are envisaged to increase employment opportunities. These programmes, apart from creating on- farm and non-farm employment are also expected to improve the income realization by the farmers.

(d) & (e): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an apex organization at the national level for promoting Science and Technology Programmes in the agricultural research and education. ICAR has 48 institutes, 5 National Bureau, 32 National Research Centres and other institutions continuously working in this direction. The technology upgradation in agricultural sector is a continuous process.